2006 Annual Report

Committed to Community

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg EST. 1919

www.spcw.mb.ca

Our Vision

A just, caring, inclusive and responsive society.

Our Mission

To provide action oriented leadership in social planning and effecting policy changes.

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg *plays a unique role in the community by:*

- *Identifying and defining social planning issues, needs, capacities, and necessary resources in the community;*
- *Developing and promoting policy and program options to policy-makers;*
- *Raising community awareness of and providing voice to social issues and human service needs, social policy options, and service delivery alternatives; and*
- *Facilitating communication and collaboration with government, business, labour, the voluntary sector and grassroots communities.*

Children as high value investments
Early childhood matters

The theme of this year's annual report and AGM is 'Children as High Value Investments'. We chose this theme to reiterate the message that the money we invest now in families with children leads to a high return at a later time.

A new report from Statistics Canada (*Income and the Outcomes of Children*, May 2006) confirms what we have known for years: there is a clear connection between family income and the developmental outcomes of young children. Children in families with higher income almost always have better outcomes than those with lower incomes. The findings point to a strong conclusion. If we invest more to improve the incomes of families with young children, we will see the return in higher levels of achievement in a range of outcomes.

Throughout the year, the Social Planning Council undertook activities to highlight the return received through investing in children early in life. The CSI: Community Schools Investigators Summer Learning Enrichment Program, a community based program in the inner city of Winnipeg that provides the opportunity for enrichment activities to improve literacy and numeracy of young children, is a prime example of how investment can lead to positive outcomes and achievement.

The 2005 Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card, *Where There's A Will There's A Way: If Not Now, When*, outlined the main features of a comprehensive plan to increase incomes and improve outcomes. The report called for a comprehensive strategy to address poverty in our province and recommended actions for the various levels of government.

In early 2006, the Social Planning Council embarked on a new project with Campaign 2000 called *Addressing the Falling Fortunes of Families with Young Children*. It will engage parents, business, and community stakeholders in a process to identify strategies to improve the incomes of families with young children and to secure these positive outcomes for all Manitoban children.

Table of Contents

President's Report 1

Executive Director's Report 2

Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee 4

Poverty Advisory Committee 6

Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination 8

Environment Committee 10

Wellbeing in the Workplace 12

Student Report 13

Housing and Homelessness Project 14

Just Income Coalition 16

Summer Learning Enrichment Program 18

Auditor's Report 20

Financial Report 21

SPC Staff, Board and Committee Chairs 22

SPC Project Staff 23

Taking a Look Back 24

Our Logo

The Social Planning Council Logo was created in 1978 by Lori Robson. For almost 30 years, this image has embodied the Council's role in ensuring Winnipeg remain a balanced and livable community for all its citizens.

The symbol shows arrows converging at the centre and moving out in a full circle of directions, representing the centrality of the Council in bringing together agencies, information and experience, while at the same time, reaching out to perform its functions of consultation, social action and community education.

-Social Planning Council 80th Anniversary Souvenir Album, 1999

President's Report

In 2005 the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPC) continued to play a unique and vital role in advocating for social justice, equity and social cohesiveness for citizens of Winnipeg. The SPC facilitated many opportunities for those in our society who "may not have a voice to be heard" by influencing government policies through policy advocating, public education, community based research and meeting with decision and policy makers. Input from citizens is ensured through inclusive planning processes and community development approaches. The SPC serves as an important link between the three levels of government and community neighborhoods.

This year the Social Planning Council proactively undertook a strategic planning process that included community members, key organizations, board members, staff and volunteers that reaffirmed strongly our Mission *"To provide action-oriented leadership in social planning and effecting social policy changes."* Also, reinforced was the leadership role provided by the SPC as being essential in moving forward the pursuit of social justice.

Some of the highlights of key initiatives and reports that SPC has been involved in over the past year include:

- 2005 Child and Family Report Card an annual report from Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee.
- Building Healthy Organizations a publication of the Wellbeing in the Workplace Committee.
- Growing Opportunities, Shrinking Options a report from the Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination.
- Children's Environmental Health Project an initiative of the Environment Committee.
- Support to the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Proposal Fund Allocation Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the staff, the Board and its numerous volunteers for their strong commitment and tireless efforts, that together, enable us as a community to continue to forge ahead in the pursuit of our vision *"A just, caring, inclusive and responsive society".*

–Anita Moore, President

Executive Director's Report

This year has been another busy time in which we met many challenges. The federal election and a change in the federal government have meant that a host of new federal representatives will need to be approached to consider the propositions that our committees have worked hard in putting forward. Some are familiar, as we have always provided information on a nonpartisan basis. We continue to work with our national partners at Campaign 2000 and the National Children's Alliance in bringing the social and economic issues facing Winnipeg forward to a new political agenda. I am confident that because of the depth of expertise and dedication of our volunteers who serve on our various committees, these sound solutions will be given serious consideration as the new government lays out its policies and programs.

We have completed the publication called "*Recipes for Success*" which is a national inventory of innovative food security projects which we have compiled and printed with the assistance of the Public Health Agency of Canada. Following an initial distribution to contributors and volunteers we have arranged for its availability across Canada through a local publishing company, on a cost recovery basis. It is also available on our newly redesigned website.

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative continues to work with us on the support to the Proposal Fund Allocation Committee which considered and recommended significant new resources to attend to the growing homelessness challenge. The model of the "shared delivery" with this federal department was an innovation which resulted in considerable capacity being vested in the community as a legacy. We have many volunteers to thank for their long hours of dedication over the last two years.

On a provincial level we continue to work toward a strengthened voluntary sector in Manitoba through the Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector Organization of Manitoba (VNPSOM) and hope to see a shared services co-operative develop for the organizations in the sector.

We also very much appreciate the support of the provincial government in their support for the Summer Learning Enrichment Program pilot. This is a fine example of solid research leading to community action which builds on the capacities of children in two inner city communities. This capacity model has augmented learning opportunities for 120 children for whom insufficient resource availability has been

shown to limit full potential. We are very appreciative of the support of the Provincial Departments of Education, the Urban Green Team program, the Healthy Child program, the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement, the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet, the Communities 4 Families Downtown Parent-Child Coalition, the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development and the Winnipeg Foundation who supported the vision and leadership of our volunteer committee in the area of education.

We are increasingly pleased that the United Way of Winnipeg, who not only have supported our core operations, but also have moved to initiate discussions and plans relating to the issues that we, and many Winnipeggers, have identified. In this regard we fully commend the pursuit of the 211 development, the community indicator system plan and the poverty reduction and community development efforts.

Finally the success we have had this year would not have been achieved without the leadership of our volunteers on the Board of Directors and the absolutely tireless work and special commitment of our staff. Together they have made that which is extremely difficult easily attainable, and that which is considered impossible quite achievable.

~Wayne Helgason, Executive Director

Campaign 2000 Continues
Steering Committee

A major role of the Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee is to foster and promote public awareness of the issue of child and family poverty. The committee accomplishes this by monitoring social policy, disseminating information collected to policy makers, stakeholders, and the general public, and fostering partnerships across sectors.

I am pleased to report that over the year the committee undertook activities in all these areas. I am not able to say that the message is always heard, but am confident that with continued pressure, stronger cross sectoral partnerships, and more grassroots and community involvement, our collective voice will become louder and stronger. Here are some highlights of the committee's work over the 2005-2006 year.

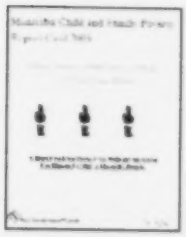
Between August and October, committee members were hard at work organizing meetings with Manitoba MPs as part of the Campaign 2000 Summer Lobby Campaign. The purpose was to remind MPs of the importance of children's issues in relation to their 1989 resolution to end child poverty, and suggest actions that must be taken to accomplish this. In total, seven meetings were held and Manitoba was recognized by National Campaign 2000 as having had a highly successful campaign. Congratulations to members who participated and made the effort a success.

Taking the message of child and family poverty to the media is a key activity of the committee. Over the year, the committee held press conferences and issued media releases to highlight its work and developments related to child and family poverty. In May, the committee issued a media release reporting on a Statistics Canada update of the low income cut-offs and revised rates of poverty in Manitoba over the last years. In August, a media release was issued on Campaign 2000's open letter to the Provincial and Territorial Leaders in anticipation of their annual Meeting of the Council of the Federation. The letter, endorsed by our local committee, called for a renewed partnership to reduce child and family poverty in Canada.

In October, representatives of Manitoba's Campaign 2000 Committee and Network traveled to Ottawa for Campaign 2000's National Forum on Child and Family Poverty. The two day forum featured presentations on the British Government's successful plan to reduce child poverty in the UK and Quebec's law to abolish poverty in their province. Participants received updates on the status of provincial policies relating to child and family poverty and discussed future priorities for Campaign 2000 in the coming years.

In honour of National Children's Day on November 20th, a *Poverty Barometer* on the Rights of Kids in Care was released at a press conference on November 21st.

Spokespeople included myself, committee member Billie Schibler of the Office of the Children's Advocate, and Marie Christian Coordinator of VOICES – Manitoba's Youth in Care Network.



As in previous years, on November 24th, the 2005 Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card, *Where There's a Will There's a Way: If Not Now, When?,* was released at a press conference. I was on the panel with Sid Frankel, Carol Ellerbeck, and Melanie Dubois, a parent who understands first hand the struggle that poverty creates. Copies of the Report Card were sent to all Manitoba MPs, MLAs, and City Councillors and distributed broadly in the community.

The Social Inclusion Project ended in 2006 with a forum held on March 22nd at Crossways in Common. The committee joined with a poverty symposium planning group to host this forum on strategies to reduce child and family poverty in Manitoba. A discussion paper was prepared by Joel Masniuk, a social work student at SPC, and formed the basis for the day's discussion. The paper will be updated to reflect the ideas generated at the forum and will form the starting point for a broader community plan to eliminate poverty in our province. The forum presented an opportunity for Network members to come together and share ideas as well as to expand its base by engaging new partners.

Partnerships are at the core of our work. It is clear that our partnership in National Campaign 2000 provides invaluable support, resources, and direction for our local efforts and helps to bring awareness to the issue of poverty in our province. On this note, I would like to thank the Family Service Association of Toronto, the host organization of National Campaign 2000 and their staff (current and past) Laurel Rothman, Jacquie Maund, Liyu Guo, Pedro Barata, and Elizabeth Ablett for supporting and helping to sustain our common cause.

Special thanks to our committee and Network members for their continued involvement and to Social Planning Council of Winnipeg staff and students for supporting our work.

~ Mike Owen, Chair

Poverty Advisory Committee

Continuing with the activities started in 2005, our committee focused its efforts on getting poverty issues recognized within the province and the City of Winnipeg. I am pleased to report that our committee has worked hard on a number of targeted activities.

- Brought together interested organizations around the Make Poverty History campaign.
- Spoke out against the unfair transit fare increases and the impact on low income Manitobans.
- Lobbied City Councillors for the establishment of a Poverty Committee and/or strategy with City Council and other stakeholders.
- Hosted a community meeting with the Minister of Family Services and Housing on the Employment and Income Assistance program.

In 2005/06 we continued with our effort to see a poverty committee in place at City Hall. The panhandling issue presented a window of opportunity to make the case for a need for some type of strategy at City Hall to deal with poverty issues in Winnipeg. We used this opportunity to write to the Mayor and City Councillors and to present to both City Council and the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services. We advanced the recommendation that the City initiate a community dialogue, such as a task force on poverty, to engage stakeholders in the development of a strategy focused on fair solutions and prevention. We also restated our original message that there should be a committee at City Hall made up of community members to provide recommendations on important policy and legislative issues related to poverty in the City of Winnipeg. While the amendments to the Obstructive Solicitation By-law were passed, our message was not lost and the recommendation to establish a Poverty Action Committee made its way through the City channels. We end the fiscal year awaiting a decision from the City about the status of the recommendation.

In September the Poverty Committee hosted a community meeting with the Minister of Family Services and Housing, Christine Melnick, at the legislative building. The meeting was titled, *Reforming Employment and Income Assistance: Finding Solutions* and brought together current and past participants of the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program to discuss ways in which the program could be reformed. It was an opportunity for those

with experience of the system to share with the Minister their concerns about the program and recommend ways to improve it. We intended that this would be the beginning of a dialogue between the Minister and the community and have plans for future meetings.

As outgoing chair, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to work with members of the Poverty Advisory Committee over the years. Their individual and collective work is vital to the poverty movement and to a broader public understanding of poverty issues. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to SPC board members, staff, and students, and in particular the work of Tara Rudy, whose efforts on behalf of the committee always ensured any gaps in my work were filled. I am pleased to continue to sit on the committee in a different capacity and to watch new leadership emerge.

– Harold Dyck, Chair

Committee for the elimination of Racism and discrimination

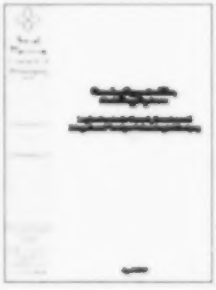
In accordance with the mandate of the Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination (CERD) the committee has continued to focus on ensuring that strategies be designed and implemented to ensure acceptance, recognition, and economic and social integration of the various communities within our society.

The committee continues to work toward equity in education and training, employment, hiring and promotional practices and equity towards access to housing services and human resources. We are looking towards the development of educational programs, and curricula that will promote increased understanding among all people.

With Winnipeg's population becoming increasingly diverse the committee believes strongly that human services are a right of all people, not a privilege, and must be accessible to all members of society. We believe in a healthy community which includes social justice, equity and good quality of life for all.

Over the past year the committee has focused its efforts on steps to help educational issues that ethno-cultural and Aboriginal students face on a daily basis. By holding a forum, "Sharing Issues, Sharing Stories", students were able to share their personal experiences as well as share ideas they had on how school curriculum could be changed to better reflect all people. This forum was the first of a series of efforts that will be made over the next few years to try and encourage positive changes to our educational systems at all levels.

Housing was also an area where the committee directed focus. With funding from the National Homelessness Initiative the committee was able to conduct a research project specifically geared to look at the housing implications of Immigrant and Refugee Newcomers to Winnipeg. This research project was vital in learning of the experiences that newcomers face when arriving to Winnipeg and the barriers or success to their integration of living in Winnipeg.



The success of the committee is highly dependent on the wonderful volunteers, staff and students that attend the committee meetings and work so passionately to help ensure that we can all live in an equitable society with shared rights and freedoms. A special thanks goes out to everyone who has been involved with the committee over the years. Much appreciation also goes out to the wonderful research team that worked so hard on the housing project and to the many organizations that contributed their time and expertise to the project.

As my last year as Chair I would like to take this opportunity to share my appreciation for support and commitment of the members of the committee, and the staff of SPC with particular kudos to Viktoria Westgate, Tara Rudy and Maureen Kalloo whose work has been diligent and exemplary.

My intent is to continue with this committee as there is still much work to be done, but the time has come for others to take the leadership roles. Thanks and best wishes to all.

~ Marty Dolin, Chair

Environment Committee

Environmental health is emerging as an issue of concern to many people from many walks of life. Scientists are telling us that many of the products we use contain chemicals that are ending up in our bodies and are linked to many of the health challenges we are facing. High cancer rates, increasing allergies, asthma, learning disabilities, immune malfunctions and chronic disease are causing more people to take a closer look at their surroundings.

While information on our environment and the consequences to our health is alarming there is much we can do to protect ourselves and our families in our homes, schools and communities.

Since its inception three years ago, the Environment Committee has been on the forefront of environmental health issues in Manitoba. As awareness of the effects of the environment on our health grows so does the demand for information and resources. Fortunately, the Committee was successful in its application to the Winnipeg Foundation and received a grant to hire a part-time coordinator in February 2006.

We now have a brochure to introduce children's environmental health concerns to the public and provide simple steps to protect health. We are working with Literacy Partners Manitoba to create a series of plain language fact sheets on topics such as, water, lead, mercury, flame retardants, etc. An audio disc of the *Exposed for Life* conference keynote speakers (Dr. Sandra Steingraber and Jean-Dominic Rene-Leveque) is now available.

In February 2006, a presentation was made to nursing students at Red River Community College on why children are more vulnerable to environmental effects, what this means as a population and the opportunities and challenges facing health care workers.

Our network of health care professionals, parents, children's advocates continues to grow and more initiatives are taking shape to get this information into people's hands

in a way that leaves them feeling empowered rather than overwhelmed. A presentation for the public on "Detoxing your home" has been schedule for September, 28th, 2006 at the Seven Oaks Wellness Centre.

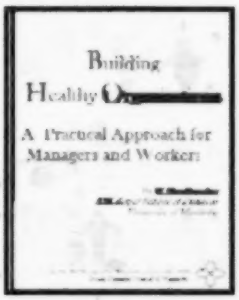
The best way to protect our future generations is to reduce or eliminate exposures to contaminates in our air, water, food, and consumer products as much as possible. This will take time and must involve many levels of the public, health care and government sectors working together. The Committee continues to promote the Precautionary Principle - "*...that where there are threats of harm or irreversible damage, a lack of scientific certainty will not restrict action from being taken to protect our environment and ourselves.*" - as an important policy and health care tool. For when it comes to our children it is "better to be safe than sorry".

~ Kimlee Wong Morriseau & Steve Rauh, Co-cChairs

Wellbeing in the workplace committee

The Well-Being in The Workplace Committee includes representatives from the private sector (business and labour), the public sector, the voluntary and non-profit sector, and academia. Its purpose is to promote a healthy organizations approach to simultaneously improving worker well-being and organizational productivity. The Committee is aware of the increasing interest in the area of workplace wellness and wishes to make a unique contribution through a comprehensive approach involving management-worker collaboration, research, action and knowledge transfer.

A major accomplishment of the Committee in 2006 was the production and dissemination of **Building Healthy Organizations: A Practical Approach for Managers and Workers** (available at www.spcw.mb.ca). This publication describes the healthy organizations model, the evidence for its effectiveness and how to put it into place in an organization. The hallmarks of the model are: active involvement by managers and workers mutually setting terms of reference and guiding the process, gathering of diagnostic and evaluative data, a comprehensive range of solutions, development of broad support at all organizational levels, and institution of a continuous feedback cycle of improvement.



In 2006 the Committee is working on improving the model by using the lessons learned from a case study and considering future directions for the initiative.

~Sid Frankel & Keith Lowe, Co-Chairs

Student report

The Social Planning Council continues to be one of the few opportunities for Social Work students interested in gaining practical experience working in the challenging (but rewarding) areas of social policy and community development.

During our time here we had the opportunity to learn how to apply our passion for social justice into the practice of working for progressive change. We were able to enhance our research, communication and organizational skills while pursuing initiatives consistent with our personal and professional interests and priorities while working alongside a diverse set of representatives from all levels of government, non-government and community organizations. We also had the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with community members and organizations through our committee work, community site visits and special events.

Some highlights over the year included: the Community Meeting with the Minister of Family Services and Housing, the Federal All Party Forum on Social Policy Issues, the Child and Family Poverty Forum put on by Campaign 2000 and the Symposium Planning Group, and the Immigrant Housing Project.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Social Planning Council staff, committee members, and the staff and volunteers from numerous partnering agencies, for ensuring a welcoming and supportive environment in which to enrich our theoretical and practical skills. A very special thank you goes to Tara Rudy who availed herself above and beyond the mandate of field instructor to provide us with invaluable professional (and personal) support throughout the academic year.

Joel Masniuk, BSW Student, University of Manitoba

Kevin Allum, BSW Student, University of Manitoba

Tracy McMullin, BSW Student, University of Manitoba

Housing and homelessness project

Homelessness is a complex problem that affects people in our communities in many different ways. Most of us are aware of homeless individuals who spend their days on the street, lining up at soup kitchens and relying on emergency shelters to provide a bed for the night and a place to escape severe weather. Sadly, they encompass all ages.

What is less well known about homelessness is that many people in our communities are at a great risk of becoming homeless. This is a group that is largely ignored because those at risk are not visible. They are the individuals and families whose low incomes combined with a lack of affordable housing, force them to live in sub-standard homes that barely, and often do not, meet basic health and safety standards. For these people, homelessness is a housing issue.

Current research and resulting statistical data indicates that homelessness is increasing dramatically across North America. There is research that also demonstrates that although the problem can be daunting, we can end homelessness. Eliminating homelessness requires comprehensive and integrated action through four broad strategies:

- Increasing the stock of permanent, affordable and safe housing for those living at the lowest income levels;
- Providing for the health and safety of those who are already homeless, by ensuring that emergency resources are available;
- Preventing homelessness by strengthening the safety net, especially in services such as mental health, substance abuse treatment, financial support, child welfare, and assistance with exiting the justice system; and
- Developing and sustaining support services, ranging from individual counseling, to education, training, and employment. Those most at risk require timely and accessible services, to assist them in making and sustaining changes in their lives.

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPC) has played a key role in implementing the National Homeless Initiative (NHI), introduced by the Government of Canada in 1999. The SPC provided coordination for the development of the first Community Plan on Homelessness and Housing in Winnipeg, the Community Plan Update, and has developed and supported the Proposal Fund Allocation Committee (PFAC). PFAC has been a partner in a government/community shared delivery model during the past two years.

Phase II of the NHI has ended and all funds have been allocated for various activities in Winnipeg. During the past six years, NHI funding has been critical to alleviating conditions of homelessness in Winnipeg. The NHI process has demonstrated that partnerships between community and government can work. It has also demonstrated that making the partnership work takes a great deal of commitment, knowledge, resources and time. The process was enriched and challenged by the commitment to involve individuals who had and/or were experiencing homelessness.

Although the future role of the NHI is unclear, it is crucial that we continue working on a path that goes beyond managing the issue of homelessness, and which moves to outcomes where homelessness is eliminated.

We have solutions. Locally and nationally, there is considerable information and research that demonstrate the risk factors and the causes of homelessness. There is also knowledge based on experiences that demonstrate successful strategies and programs. At this point, we need to create the will and engage the necessary leadership and resources to develop the vision to put an end to long-term homelessness over the coming years.

~Bern Bileski, Project Coordinator

Resource Assistance for Youth

Main Street Project

Just Income Coalition

The Just Income Coalition (JIC) formed in the fall of 2002 to lobby government to legislate a minimum wage that is a living wage in Manitoba. Since that time, the Coalition has organized a number of activities and campaigns to draw public and government attention to the low level of the minimum wage (see www.just-income.ca).

In spite of these significant efforts and evidence of public support, the needed change had not occurred. The Coalition decided to turn its attention to an educational plan to dispel myths about minimum wage earners and raise awareness about the injustice of low wages. In 2005, JIC organized its largest endeavour to date, a Low Wage Community Inquiry in Manitoba, with the objective to gather and tell the stories of workers who live on incomes below the poverty line.

In May 2005, a series of community hearings were held in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson, to hear the personal stories of Manitobans living on low wages (defined as less than $10.25/hour), service providers who provide support and services to low wage workers, and low wage employers. A panel of twelve individuals from across Manitoba, representing a variety of communities (business, labour, women, ethnocultural, and Aboriginal), oversaw the hearings, heard the stories of low wage workers, and read the written submissions. The panel heard moving stories of dismal working and living conditions among the 27% of Manitoba workers earning less than $10.25 per hour in 2004.

Community Hearings May, 2005

In October 2005, the report of the Manitoba Low Wage Community Inquiry, *Paid to be Poor*, was released. The report includes a narrative analysis of the stories heard (72 presentations and numerous more written submissions), the first impressions of the panellists, their recommendations in the form of alternative strategies supported by 'ten core principles', and an analysis of 2004 wage data from Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey. *Paid to be Poor* is a comprehensive report that serves as an effective lobbying tool. The compelling stories of working poor Manitobans caught in a miserable low wage trap, through no fault of their own, provides overwhelming evidence that the current policies surrounding wages and employment are not sufficient to improve the working conditions and raise the incomes of the lowest paid workers in Manitoba.

While the Government of Manitoba remains committed to implementing minor annual increases to the minimum wage, the Coalition remains committed to their position that the minimum wage must be a living wage that allows all workers to live above the poverty line.

~Just Income Coalition

Paid to Be Poor can be found at www.just-income.ca or www.spcw.mb.ca and is available in hard copy for a small cost at the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, 412 McDermot Avenue, info@spcw.mb.ca, or (204) 943-2561.

Summer Learning Enrichment Program

August 19, 2005 was an exciting but emotional day. After six weeks of intensive activities and bonding, the university and high school instructors who made up the Urban Green Team proudly presented the children their certificates as official "CSI Agents"... No, they didn't become Crime Scene Investigators, but Community School Investigators whose mission was to "Create a safe environment, Show respect to yourself and others, and Include everyone."

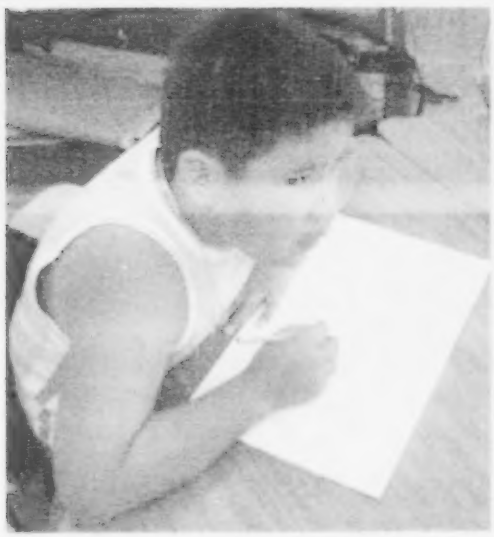
Children are at risk of losing academic ground over the summer as a result of *summer learning loss,* which occurs when a child forgets a significant amount of the previous year's learning over long holidays. Children from families with low income are especially at risk for losses as they have fewer opportunities to participate in enriching out of school activities.

To help prevent this loss, the CSI Program focused on improving the reading, writing, and mathematical skills of students by integrating academic components with recreational and other enriching learning opportunities such as dance and art. Weekly field trips included visits to the MB Museum, Children's Museum, Fort Whyte Centre, IMAX Theatre, Lower Fort Garry and University of Winnipeg. Everything was free for the registered participants and was coupled with the provision of a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

In order to further cultivate skills and capacities at the local neighbourhood level, the Urban Green Team instructors were hired primarily from the local community. Not only did they implement the program, but they also helped to develop it. In doing so, instructors made significant contacts within the community, attended various training workshops surrounding literacy, received Non-Violent Crisis Intervention certification and enhanced employment and mentorship skills.

Due to its great success and positive feedback from the children participants and their families, I am pleased to report that the CSI Program has been extended in 2006 from two sites to three and that training and planning for an aim of 180 students this summer is well underway!

~Summer Learning Enrichment Program



Auditors' Report

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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

We have audited the financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg as at March 31, 2006 and for the year then ended which includes the statements of financial position, operations and changes in net assets and cash flows, and notes to the financial statements, which we have reported thereon, without reservation, to the Planning Council on June 2, 2006.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these summarized statements fairly present the information contained in the financial statements of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg for the year ended March 31, 2006 from which they have been derived.

Deloitte & Touche LLP
Chartered Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 2, 2006

Financial Report

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG
Summarized Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2006

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	March 31	
	2006	2005
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	$ 30,672	$ 91,738
Short term deposit	64,887	63,794
Accounts receivable	107,031	63,043
Prepaid expenses	4,226	4,809
	$ 225,806	$ 213,384
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 57,289	$ 63,451
Deferred Special Projects revenue	99,411	28,408
	156,383	191,859
REVENUE STABILIZATION FUND		
TECHNOLOGY REPLACEMENT FUND		
RESEARCH FUND AND NET ASSETS		
REVENUE STABILIZATION FUND	$ 33,000	$ 33,000
TECHNOLOGY FUND	5,000	5,000
RESEARCH FUND	10,000	10,000
NET ASSETS	21,753	22,707
	$ 225,806	$ 213,384

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	March 31	
	2006	2005
REVENUE		
Special Projects revenue	$ 668,596	$ 652,338
United Way of Winnipeg	274,000	274,000
Membership fees	2,400	3,765
Other	6,753	3,738
	935,871	940,871
EXPENSES		
Special Projects expenses	493,741	501,823
Salaries and wages	355,325	356,032
Office and maintenance	57,858	61,943
Administration	44,763	69,268
	949,688	982,816
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE (REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	(954)	7,945
NET ASSETS,		
BEGINNING OF YEAR	22,707	15,454
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	$ 21,753	$ 23,407

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

..... President

..... Treasurer

A complete set of financial statements and Auditors' Report may be obtained from the Council.

Spc staff, Board and Committee Chairs

Core Staff

Wayne Helgason
Executive Director

Tara Rudy
Policy Analyst

Viktoria Westgate
Community Outreach Coordinator & Membership Services

Donna Downie
Office Manager

Audrey Wheeler
Receptionist

*Sherry McPherson
Communications Officer

***Student Placements**

Joel Masniuk
Faculty of Social Work

Kevin Allum
Faculty of Social Work

Tracy McMullin
Faculty of Social Work

Board of Directors

*Bob Aldridge
Dorothy Dobbie
Marty Dolin
Harold Dyck
Sandy Gessler
Darlene Hall
Dick Henley
Sandy Hyman
Patrick LeBlanc
David Lowe
Heather McCormick
Rhonda McCorriston
Glenn Michalchuk
Anita Moore
Linda Orr
Mike Owen
Steve Rauh
Darla Rettie
*Fred Shore
Shahina Siddiqui
Frances Sinclair
Ram Tiwari
Courtney Tokarchuk

Executive Committee

Anita Moore
President

Marty Dolin
1st Vice President

Mike Owen
2nd Vice President

Rhonda McCorriston
Treasurer

Darlene Hall
Past President

Harold Dyck
Member at Large

David Lowe
Member at Large

Steve Rauh
Member at Large

Committee Chairs

Anita Moore
Executive Committee

Marty Dolin
Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination

Harold Dyck
Poverty Advisory Committee

Mike Owen
Campaign 2000 Continues Committee

Steve Rauh
Environment Committee

David Lowe
Personnel Committee

Keith Lowe, Sid Frankel
Co-Chairs, Wellbeing in the Workplace Committee

SPC Staff

SPC Board

SPC Executive Committee

Smiling faces from some of the board and executive committee!

SPC Project staff

***Immigrant Housing Project**

Darren Lezubski
Principal Investigator

Maureen Kalloo
Co-Investigator

Tatjana Miladinovska Blazevska
Interviewing/Research Assistant

Lucia Madariaga-Vignudo
Interviewing/Research Assistant

Children's Health & The Environment

Kimlee Wong-Morriseau

***Housing and Homelessness**

Bern Bileski
Project Coordinator

Doug Bartlett
Executive Coordinator

Suzanne Gessler
Community Coordinator

Erica Ballentyne
Community Coordinator

Pamela Rempel
Community Coordinator

Heather Ranville
Community Coordinator

***PFAC CAHRD Summer Students**

Lorie Thompson

Crystal Bandura

**resigned/project completed*

***CSI Summer Learning Enrichment Program**

Volunteer Program Coordinators
Karen Botting
Strini Reddy

Food Coordinators
Jennifer Bogoch
Doreen Ruzank

Volunteer Food Coordinators
Judy Barg
Joyce MacMartin

Teacher Coordinators
Connie Brum
Jennifer Dyck
Ralf Grubert
Heidi Poetrker
Patricia Zealand

Student Instructors
Jessica Allary
Sarah Clemons
Matthew Couture
Sherry Desmarais
Krista Falk
Deyra Fontaine
Chantel Grubert
Darren Hamilton
Ashling Kramer
Melissa Leibl
Catherine Mason
Linell Maytwayashing
Bryan McIntosh
Jennifer Nicholson
Kaley Northcott
Cristina Nuytten
Wejdan Osman
Samantha Paul
Terren Pistun
Michelle Ramlackhan
Angela Saskosky
Ivan Sifrim
Donald Squires
Romeo Suban
Desiree Turner
Carol Young

***Work Experience Training**

Shuangjin (Jane) Zhang

Nicole Kan Zoo

***The Food Project**

Anna Kirbyson
Project Coordinator

Meagan Peasgood
Project Assistant

Taking a look back
An overview of activities in 2005-2006

With the direction and support from the United Way of Winnipeg, the Social Planning Council (SPC) has been undertaking the task of developing a program logic model for our organization. A staff/board workshop, meetings with United Way board members, volunteers and countless staff hours have lead to the start of a logic model.

The work of the SPC falls under four broad and overlapping categories: Research and Reporting; Partnership Building/Maintaining and Community Engagement; Public Awareness and Education; and Government and Policy Advocacy. We undertake these activities so that:

- A greater understanding (by the general public and policy makers) of social issues and their impact on individuals, families, and communities is achieved;
- Action is taken by government, communities, and other relevant sectors to reduce the impact and extent of poverty and social exclusion; and
- Personal and economic opportunities exist for individuals, families and communities.

Research and Reporting

The SPC maintains its strong role in community based research both undertaking research projects and serving as a research partner for others. The SPC released four research (primary and secondary) reports in 2005/2006:

- *Poverty Barometer, Upholding the Rights of Children and Youth In-Care: Does Manitoba Make the Grade?*
- *Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card 2005, Where There's A Will There's A Way: If Not Now, When?*
- *Anti-discrimination Policy*
- *Building Healthy Organizations: A Practical Approach for Managers and Workers*

In addition, the SPC served as a supporting organization in the development of three other reports released in 2005/2006:

- *Paid to be Poor: Low Wage Community Inquiry Manitoba 2005* (Just Income Coalition)
- *The Promise of Investment in Community-Led Renewal: State of the Inner City Report 2005* (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba)
- *Home is Where the Heart is and Right Now that is Nowhere…An Examination of Hidden Homelessness among Aboriginal Peoples in Prairie Cities* (Institute of Urban Studies)

Additional Projects

The SPC received funding for a number of short term projects that brought together national and/or local community stakeholders. In 2005/06 these projects included:

- The Immigrant Housing Project (HRSDC) examined what contributes to the housing choices of recent immigrants, and the relationship of these choices to other factors such as employment, education, proximity of services, social connections, and social inclusion.
- The Food Project (Public Health Agency of Canada) supported the development of a network with the capacity to respond to food security issues in the city of Winnipeg through identifying local needs, priorities and community objectives for health promotion and community development/community economic development regarding food security.
- PFAC, Proposal Fund Allocation Committee (National Housing and Homelessness Initiative) was in charge of allocating funding to support housing and homelessness initiatives in Winnipeg and conducted research and collected information for various publications and public awareness and educational materials.
- Campaign 2000's Strengthening Cross Canada Linkages on Social Inclusion: Focus on Child and Family Poverty (Family Service Association of Toronto/Social Development Canada) which aims to consolidate and expand cross-Canada partnerships working on child & family poverty and to enhance knowledge on social inclusion for vulnerable families in Canada.

Partnership Building/Maintaining and Community Engagement

In addition to our five standing committees, examples of the SPC's partnerships and community engagement in 2005/2006 included:

External Committees and Involvements

SPC staff participate in external committees at the local and national levels in a variety of roles and capacities. In 2005/2006 these included: the Just Income Coalition, Community Action on Poverty, Voluntary Sector Initiative, Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector Organization of Manitoba, Neighbours Helping Neighbours Energy Assistance Program, United Against Racism, Black History Month, the National Children's Alliance, and National Campaign 2000.

Administrative Support

The council provides administrative support for community partnerships and initiatives. In 2005/2006 the SPC provided support for the Elmwood Community Association, the CSI: Summer Learning Enrichment Program and the Just Income Coalition.

Looking Back

Forums and Events

In 2005/2006 the SPC partnered in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of four events aimed at convening stakeholders in order to stimulate discussion on community issues. These included: two workshops as a part of Imagine Canada's Voluntary Sector Awareness Project, a Community Meeting with the Minister of Family Services and Housing, and a Child and Family Poverty Forum.

Membership Services

In 2005/2006 two newsletters were sent to our membership and partner agencies in order to keep up to date of the activities going on at the council. In December we held an open house that was attended by membership, Board members, community members, government officials, and organizational representatives. In the summer of 2005 we spent some time visiting organization as part of our new outreach strategy.

Public Awareness and Education

Media Outreach

In 2005/2006 outreach to the media included numerous media advisories and releases, interviews, press conferences, and letters to the editor. As a result of our efforts we witnessed considerable coverage in the local media on the release of the Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card 2005, the Children and Youth in Care Poverty Barometer, and the Child and Family Poverty Forum.

Forums and Events

In 2005/2006 the SPC hosted an All Party Federal Forum on Social Policy Issues, a Youth Empowerment Forum and Community Leaders Summit with the Black History Month Celebration Committee, and a forum called Sharing Issues, Sharing Stories where youth shared their experiences of being newcomers to Canada.

Government and Policy Advocacy

The SPC works to keep policy makers at all levels of government informed of social issues, trends, and policy/program options. In 2005/2006 we sent letters, made presentations, submitted briefs, and had meetings with government representatives and other stakeholders at the municipal, provincial and federal levels regarding a variety of issues including, but not limited to, child and family poverty, panhandling, minimum wage and transit fares.

Notes

Membership Form

join us

A **membership** in the Social Planning Council is a good investment in the **future** of our **community**.

Check one ◊ New ◊ Renewal

Please Print Clearly:

Name:: _____

Address:: _____ Postal Code:: _____

Telephone:: _____ Email:: _____

Organization (if any):: _____

Contact Person:: _____

Type of Membership:

◊ Individual	$ 3.00
◊ Agency/Corporate	$ 50.00
◊ Friend of SPC	$100.00

I/we wish to support the work of SPC by making a **donation** of _____
Charitable tax receipt will be issued for all donations

Payment enclosed $ _____

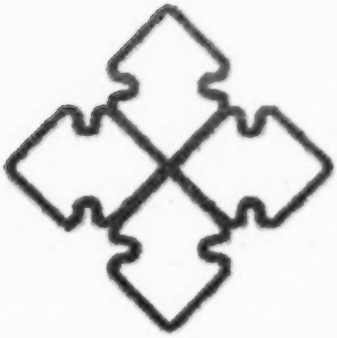
Above fees are annual fees from date payment is received.

Join on-line at www.spcw.mb.ca

Calendar

2006

2007



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